

## Washington Top Ten Indicators

### Health

Washington State is the **9<sup>th</sup> healthiest state** in the nation in 1999 as measured by the United Health Group State Health Ranking. The rankings are based on a view of health outlined by the World Health Organization, which is based on numerous indicators including lifestyle, access to healthcare, occupational safety, disease, and mortality.

### Infant Mortality

Washington State had the **5<sup>th</sup> lowest infant mortality rates** in the nation in 1997. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Washington State's ranking of 5.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births was the fifth lowest among all 50 states.

### Births to Unwed Mothers

Washington State has the **10<sup>th</sup> lowest percentage of births to unwed mothers** in the nation. According to the National Center for Health Statistics in 1998, 27.9 percent of the total births in the state were to unwed mothers, the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country.

### Poverty

Washington State had the **7<sup>th</sup> lowest percentage of state population in poverty** and the **4<sup>th</sup> lowest percentage of children in poverty** in 1998, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 1998, nine percent of the total state population was in poverty compared to the national average of 12.7 percent. In addition, 11.2 percent of the state's children were living in poverty, compared to the national average of 18.9 percent.

### Child Support Collections

Washington State is the **9<sup>th</sup> best state at collecting child support** in the country. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington State's per capita child support collections were 9<sup>th</sup> highest in 1997.

### Children in Foster Care

Washington State had the **3<sup>rd</sup> lowest number of children in foster care** in 1999. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families in 1999, Washington State had 23 children in foster care per 10,000 children in the state, considerably below the national average of 77 children in foster care per 10,000 children.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Washington State ranked **4<sup>th</sup> in state park usage** in 1999 as measured by per capita visits to state park and recreation areas.

### **Libraries**

Washington State ranked **3<sup>rd</sup> in public library service** in 1997 as measured by total circulation per capita as determined by the National Center for Educational Statistics.

### **Educational Attainment – High School Education**

Washington State ranked **2<sup>nd</sup> in the country in terms of the percent of the population with a high school education**. In 1999, the U.S. Department of Commerce indicated that 91.2 percent of the state's 25 and over population held high school diplomas. Washington State was number one in 1998.

### **Educational Attainment – Bachelor's Degree**

Washington State ranked **9<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of the percent of the population with a B.A. degree**. In 1999, the U.S. Department of Commerce indicated that 28.1 percent of the state population had a bachelor's degree.

### **Higher Education Participation Rates**

Washington State ranked **10<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the percent of the population participating in public higher education**. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, nearly one out of every 15 persons over the age of 17 was taking advantage of higher education opportunities.

### **SAT Scores**

Washington State ranked **1<sup>st</sup> in the nation in SAT scores**. According to the College Board, which administers the Scholastic Aptitude Test, Washington students average SAT score of 1,051 ranked first in 1999 among all 50 states.

### **Earnings Per Job**

Washington State ranked **9<sup>th</sup> in earnings per job** according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. In 1998, the average job in Washington paid \$34,548 – 4.4 percent higher than the national average. Historically, Washington State's earnings per job have been in the top fifteen nationally due to an industry mix that favors high wage employment in both the aerospace and technology sectors.

### **Unemployment Insurance**

Washington State has the **4<sup>th</sup> highest unemployment insurance benefits** in the nation. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Service, Washington State's average weekly unemployment compensation benefit of \$259.61 ranked it 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation in 1998.

### **Disability Benefits**

Washington State has the **8<sup>th</sup> highest worker's compensation benefits** in the nation. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Washington State's maximum weekly worker's compensation temporary disability payment of \$692.70 ranked it 8<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation in 1999.

### **Bond Rating**

Washington State has the **2<sup>nd</sup> highest bond rating in the nation**. According to the Moody's, Washington's Aa1 ranking is the second highest in the country. Seven other states are tied with Washington for second place and nine states are tied for first with an Aaa bond rating.

### **Workers Using Public Transportation**

Washington State has the **9<sup>th</sup> highest percentage of worker using public transportation** in the country. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 4.5 percent of all workers in the state used public transportation in 1990, placing Washington ninth in the nation.

## Washington Bottom Ten Indicators

### Student to Teacher Ratios

Washington State ranked **48<sup>th</sup> in student to teacher ratios** in elementary and secondary public schools in 1997. According to the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington student to teacher ratios ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation from 1993 to 1997.

### Urban Roadway Congestion

Washington State ranked **45<sup>th</sup> in roadway congestion in urban areas** in 1997. The Roadway Congestion Index (RCI) is a traffic density indicator (vehicles per road space) calculated by the State of Texas Department of Transportation. According to the most recent studies, the Seattle-Everett metropolitan area was the **6<sup>th</sup> most congested urban area** in the nation in 1997.

### State Arts Support

Washington State ranked **45<sup>th</sup> in per capita state support for the arts** in 2000. According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, although Washington has one of the oldest public art programs in the nation; the state's total state arts revenue per capita was \$0.70, compared to the national average of \$1.33.

### Unemployment Insurance Costs

Washington State ranked **46<sup>th</sup> in unemployment insurance costs** in 1999. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment contributions as a percent of total wages averaged 1.18 percent in 1999 compared to the U.S. average of 0.71 percent.

### Hazardous Waste Sites

Washington State had the **7<sup>th</sup> highest number of hazardous waste sites** in the nation in 1999. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, there are 45 hazardous waste sites in the state that have been designated for cleanup under the Superfund program.

### Property Crime

Washington State had the **8<sup>th</sup> highest property crime rate** in the country in 1997. According to the U.S. Department of Justice's publication Crime in the United States, 1997, Washington's property crime rate per 100,000 population was 5,486 – over 25 percent higher than the national average of 4,312 per 100,000 population.